

Learning to Read to the Glory of God

- I. Why Read
  - a. We are a people of the Book (Duet. 31:26; Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2; Psalm 119, 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21)
  - b. Hunger & Thirst for Righteousness (Matt. 5:6)
    - i. Humility (Prov. 1:5; 9:9)
    - ii. Walking with Wise (Prov. 13:20)

Descartes, "The reading of all good books is like conversation with the finest men of the past centuries."
  - c. For Leadership (Titus 1:9)

Harry S. Truman, "Not all readers are leaders, but all leaders are readers."
- II. What to Read
  - a. The Bible (Psalm 119)
  - b. Broadly, but not indiscriminately
- III. How to Read
  - a. Plan

Francis Bacon, "Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few are to be chewed and digested."

    - i. Plan to read hard stuff:

5 pages/day, 5 days/week, 50 weeks/year = 1,250 pages/year = Wayne Grudem's *Systematic Theology*

10 pages/day, 5 days/week, 50 weeks/year = 2,500 pages/year = 2 Vol. Edition of Calvin's *Institutes*

15 pages/day, 5 days/week, 50 weeks/year = 1,250 pages/year = 3,750 pages/year = Bavinck's 4 Vol. *Reformed Dogmatics*
    - ii. Read what you enjoy
    - iii. Read what others you trust recommend
  - b. Read to your children/grandchildren

C. S. Lewis, "A children's story that can only be enjoyed by children is not a good children's story in the slightest."

Emilie Buchwald, "Children are made readers on the laps of their parents."

- IV. When to Read
  - a. When you're awake! ☺

John Piper, "Fight for Your Life" in *Brothers, We Are Not Professionals*:

I agree with Martyn Lloyd-Jones that the fight to find time to read is a fight for one's life. "Let your wife or anyone else take messages for you, and inform the people telephoning that you are not available. One literally has to fight for one's life in this sense!"

Most of our people have no idea what two or three new messages a week cost us in terms of intellectual and spiritual drain. Not to mention the depletions of family pain, church decisions, and imponderable theological and moral dilemmas. I, for one, am not a self-replenishing spring. My bucket leaks, even when it is not pouring. My spirit does not revive on the run. Without time of unhurried reading and reflection, beyond the press of sermon preparation, my soul shrinks, and the specter of ministerial death rises. Few things frighten me more than the beginnings of barrenness that come from frenzied activity with little spiritual food and meditation.

The great pressure on us today is to be productive managers. But the need of the church is for prayerful, spiritual poets. I don't mean (necessarily) pastors who write poems. I mean pastors who feel the weight and glory of eternal reality even in the midst of a business meeting; who carry in their soul such a sense of God that they provide, by their very presence, a constant life-giving reorientation on the infinite God. For your own soul and for the life of your church, fight for time to feed your soul with rich reading.

Reading to Encourage/Shape Your Reading:

Adler, Mortimer Jerome, and Charles Lincoln Van Doren. *How to Read a Book*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1972.

Ascol, Thomas K. *Dear Timothy: Letters on Pastoral Ministry*. Cape Coral, FL: Founders Press, 2004. (chapters 12, 13, & 14)

Jacobs, Alan. *The Pleasures of Reading in an Age of Distraction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Naselli, Andrew David. "D. A. Carson's Theological Method," *Scottish Bulletin of Evangelical Theology*, Vol. 29 Num. 2 Autumn 2011, pgs. 245-274. ([http://andynaselli.com/wp-content/uploads/2011\\_Carson.pdf](http://andynaselli.com/wp-content/uploads/2011_Carson.pdf))

Piper, John, C. Samuel Storms, and Justin Taylor. *For the Fame of God's Name: Essays in Honor of John Piper*. Wheaton, Ill: Crossway, 2010. (chapter 25)

Piper, John, D. A. Carson, David Mathis, and Owen Strachan. *The Pastor As Scholar & the Scholar As Pastor: Reflections on Life and Ministry*. Wheaton, Ill: Crossway, 2011.

Reinke, Tony. *Lit!: A Christian Guide to Reading Books*. Wheaton, Ill: Crossway, 2011. (Study questions by David Murray: <http://headhearhand.org/uploads/2012/03/Lit-Questions.doc> & <http://headhearhand.org/uploads/2012/03/Lit-Questions.pdf>)